GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3178
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
REINVENTING EPF INDIA PROGRAMME
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund Account holders are facing great difficulties of withdrawal from their account;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government launched modernisation programme namely Reinventing EPF-India by the Employees Provident Fund Organization in the year 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the status and the number of PF subscribers covered under this scheme as on date;

(f) whether this scheme has shown encouraging results for withdrawal of PF by its subscribers; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The claims which are complete in all respect are normally settled within 30 days as per scheme provisions. However, delay in certain cases occur on account of non-remittance of contribution/non-submission of returns by the employer, non-submission of completed form by the members and lengthy settlement procedure.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. Employees` Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernisation through the project `Re-inventing EPF, India` in the year 2001 with the following goals:

i. Geometric growth in the number of covered establishments and in the number of enrolled subscribers.
ii. `Any-time, Any-where` access to account status, pension information etc. to every member.
iii. Establish a turn around time of 2-3 days between receipts of claim and issue of cheques.
iv. Improving voluntary compliance.
v. To extend the reach of Social Security to an increasingly mobile workforce both in organised and unorganised employment.

(e): As on 31.3.2004, there were 400.92 lakh members of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

(f): Yes, Sir. During the year 2003-04, a total of 24,57,176 claims have been filed by the members/nominees for withdrawal from the fund.

(g): Does not arise in view of (f) above.